

John F. Loughran, Jr.  
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Willington, CT 06279

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Dear Chairman Cohen, Chairman Gresco, and Distinguished Members of the Environmental Committee:

We are writing in support of House Bill No. 5145 - An Act Concerning the Use of Portable Wastewater Containers, which permits the appropriate use of portable waste-holding tanks in Connecticut campgrounds.

For several years, we have had the pleasure of being seasonal campers in a private campground in Connecticut. Our site sits directly on the Natchaug River. In recent years, since the use of portable waste water holding tanks or "blue boys" was forbidden, we have witnessed other campers dumping their gray waste water illegally – either draining right onto their campsites, by using a hose and draining into obscure areas of their campsites, or even draining directly into the river! We have observed debris, oily stains, soap, and foam on the surface of the river that we did not see in past years to the point that we no longer use the river for entertainment or consume fish caught from the river because we are not confident that it is safe to do so. This was not the case when campers were permitted to and responsible for dumping their own waste water via use of the "blue boys".

Additionally, we feel that prohibiting the use of "blue boys" has placed an unfair burden of expense on campers as well as private campground owners. Owners have been required to purchase equipment, maintain it, and provide labor to operate it in order to pump out their guests. Coupled with costs of inflation and the financial impact of Covid, some families simply do not have additional funds available to have their tanks pumped. In order to cut expenses, they either dump illegally or choose to camp in neighboring states where the use of "blue boys" is permitted, resulting in lost revenue for Connecticut.


On a more personal level, our RV is a very expensive investment which we prefer to maintain ourselves. Our tanks are currently pumped during the middle of the week and we are not able to be present to observe. If the process is not properly executed or tanks are not completely emptied and flushed every time they are pumped, damages can quickly add up to thousands of dollars. In these types of situations, how does the average citizen hold the campground accountable for damages and is it fair to the campground owner to have to assume those risks?

We respectfully request that you do what is fair and right for campers, campground owners, and the environment in our state. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



John F. Loughran, Jr.



Debra G. Loughran